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FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

OUTLOOK FOR AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND APPLES

The Empire Marketing Board have given the following estimates for the quantities of apples to be exported from Australia and New Zealand during the current season:-

<u>From-</u>	<u>Total (Boxes)</u>	<u>To United Kingdom</u>
Tasmania	1,150,000	1,084,000
Western Australia	327,000	169,000
New Zealand	570,000	500,000
	<u>2,047,000</u>	<u>1,753,000</u>

Additional small quantities may be expected from South Australia and Victoria. It is to be recalled that nearly 3,700,000 boxes of apples were exported last year.

The ravages of the Thrip insect in Victoria, coupled with dry, hot weather, have caused that state to have a crop failure greater than any experienced during the past thirty years. With a light crop in New South Wales and a moderate crop in Tasmania, the good crops in West Australia and New Zealand are not sufficient to bring exports up to normal.

Consignments to the United Kingdom promise to be restricted. Not only are buyers from Victoria invading the Tasmanian districts and competing for the crop, but, owing to last year's disastrous results in Great Britain, arrangements are being made to ship heavier quantities to Continental European markets. The surprising demand in Dutch and German markets for American apples during the winter months has given the Continental business still more encouragement. Even the Scandinavian markets have been worked. It is reported that one shipment of 25,000 boxes will be made direct from West Australia to Stockholm.

As a result of this outlook Australian districts have experienced a great deal of competition and more f.o.b. selling than usual has followed. It is reliably reported that the following f.o.b. prices have been paid: Jonathan, \$2.49; Dunn's Seedling, \$2.74; Rokewood (late variety) \$2.80. Guaranteed advances as high as \$2.20 per box have been offered for shipment on consignment.

The only doubts that have arisen in Australia as to high prices being realized in Europe relate to supplies of export sizes of American apples now in cold storage for spring shipment, and the carrying quality of the new crop. A large amount of trouble from "bitter pit" and "browning" has been experienced in past years.

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